

WILLOWYNN



MOTH OR BUTTERFLY SEWING PATTERN

An easy-to-follow sewing pattern for making fabric moths or butterflies.

This simple sewing project is a lovely way to use those scraps of fabric you've been saving for something special.

Make moths or butterflies to wear on your bag or coat, perch on the wall or hang from ribbon for a beautiful tree ornament.

In this project you will use a sewing machine, do some hand-stitching as well as learn some basic soft toy making skills. Skill level is advanced beginners - basic sewing skills required.

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Sewing your moth or butterfly

You will need:

- **Sewing machine with zig zag stitch**
- **Small fabric scraps.** You can use the same fabric for both upper and under wings or make them different
- **Small scraps of heavier backing fabric** for underside of wings – I like to use upholstery scraps as this keeps the wings from being too floppy. Be sure to use a colour that matches the top side of the wings as you will be able to see the edges.
- **A small scrap of fabric for the body** –this can match your wing fabric or be different
- **Regular sewing machine thread** – one spool in matching or contrasting colours to your fabric
- **Dark embroidery floss** for antennae. Around five inches in length.
- **Wing and body templates** (included on page6) drawn onto card. (Old cereal box card is perfect).
- **Large embroidery sewing needle**
- **Fabric marker or ball point pen**
- **Disappearing fabric marker**
- **Scissors**
- **Pins**
- **Surgical tweezers or a haemostat**
- **Either small brooch pin, ring or ribbon to attach to moth for display**

Instructions (for either moth or butterfly)

Select either the moth or butterfly upper-wing shape/template. The steps are the same for either moth or butterfly. Print out the template page and cut out the template shapes.

Tracing and cutting pattern pieces

Using your template shapes and your pen, trace and cut out one upper-wing shape from your top-side wing fabric and one from your backing wing fabric, leaving a 5mm seam allowance around the edges.

Trace and cut out two under-wing shapes from both the top-side and backing fabric. Make sure your under-wing pieces mirror each other. Leave a 5mm seam allowance around the edges. Trace and cut out two pieces of your body fabric as well (again, leaving 5mm seam allowance around the edges). (Fig. 1 and 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

Sewing the wings

Pin backing wing fabric to top-side wing fabric, making sure that the sides you have drawn your outline on are facing up on both pieces (Fig. 3). Sew together with matching thread, using first a straight stitch all around the outside of the shape (following your drawn line), then repeat with a short/ zigzag stitch (not too wide) over the top (Fig. 4). This will prevent a bit of fraying and also provide a nice outline to the wings. Repeat this process with the under-wings. (See 'sewing the body' step below, if you'd like to do that step now).



Figure 3



Figure 4

Wing embellishments

Either machine or hand-stitch the veins onto the wings using matching or contrasting thread, depending on how you'd like your moth or butterfly to look. You can trace the shape of the veins onto your wings with a disappearing fabric pen to make it easier if you need. Have a look at pictures of real moths and butterflies as a reference for the kind of vein patterns you'd like to replicate (if any).

To sew the veins with a sewing machine, set your wing under the machine presser foot. Lower the presser foot and sew the pattern of your veins very slowly using a regular stitch length. Be sure to (neatly) backstitch at the beginning and end of your stitch so your stitches won't unravel. (Fig. 5).



Figure 5

Ideas for embellishments

Use photos of moths or butterflies to help you decide on what markings to add (if any). A lot of moths and butterflies have distinctive marks called eye-spots to help to protect them from predators. You could add eye spots onto either the upper or underwings (or both), by appliquéing a small disk of fabric onto the wing or adding hand-embroidery (Fig. 6 - 9). You could even sew scraps of lace onto the wings (Fig. 7).



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9

When the wings are all sewn up, you can carefully trim the excess fabric off the edges of the wings, as close as you can to the stitched line without sniping any of your stitches. (Fig. 10 and 11).



Figure 10



Figure 11

Moth/butterfly sewing pattern

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Sewing the body

Join the two body pieces (right sides together) by sewing around the edge (along your drawn line) twice, using a straight stitch. Leave a 10mm gap on one side so that you can turn it out. Trim any excess fabric along the curves and turn the body right-side-out (Fig. 11). (A large pair of surgical tweezers are really handy for doing this).

Now stuff the body with your chosen stuffing (Fig. 12). Once it's nice and fat, hand-sew the gap closed using an invisible slip stitch/ladder stitch.



Figure 12

Sewing the wings to the body

Option 1: (Fig. 13).

Position the underwings onto the top of the body. Start by placing both lower ends over the body at the tail tip, wings touching. The upper ends of the wings should be positioned on either side of the body (Fig. 13). Pin the wings in place. Using a double strand of matching thread, hand-stitch the underwings onto the body, along the inner edge of the wings.



Figure 13 – underwing placement option one

Option 2: (Fig. 14)

The underwings can also be positioned along the sides of the body and folded, rather than over the top of the body (Fig. 14) for a different look. To do this, position the inner edges of the underwings along the sides of the body, edges pointed down, and pin in place. Your underwings will be standing straight up. They will flatten when you lay the upper-wings over the top.



Figure 14 – underwing placement option two

Attach upper-wings (either butterfly or moth upper-wings).

Position the upper wings onto the top of both the body and underwings then pin in place (Fig. 15). Using a double strand of matching thread, hand-stitch the upper-wings onto the body and the underwings, along the inner edge of the upper-wings. Keep the stitches small so that they can't be seen on the topside of the wings.



Figure 15



Figure 16

Adding the antennae

Thread approximately five inches of your embroidery floss (in dark brown) onto a sewing needle and knot the end. Thread this into one side of the moth's head, bringing the needle out on the other side of the head. Pull the thread half-way through. Remove the needle and knot one side of the thread as close as you can to the side of the head. Do the same on the other side of the head so that each antennae is the same length and it can't be pulled through the head. Knot the remaining ends of the thread, making sure both antennae are even (Fig. 16). Stiffen the antennae with fabric stiffener, craft glue or 'fray stoppa'.

Displaying your moth/butterfly

A few options:

- Stitch a brooch pin onto the back and wear as a brooch or pin it to a bag, curtain etc.
- Stitch a small ring onto the back and hang your moth or butterfly on a nail or hook in the wall.
- Stitch a loop of ribbon or string to one wing to turn it into a hanging ornament. This would look lovely on a Christmas tree.





